

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
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O R 291638Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 248
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 11247

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IS US
SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S MIDDLE EAST
STATEMENTS

1. NEWS OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS CAME TOO LATE
FOR THE MORNING EDITIONS AND THE AFTERNOON PAPERS
GAVE IT LIMITED COVERAGE, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE
GREAT INTEREST IN THE KNESSET DEBATE. RADIO ISRAEL
ALSO NOTED THE STATEMENTS IN ITS MORNING NEWSCAST
AND USED THEM AS A MAIN NEWS ITEM.

2. THE PAPERS SEE THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS AS A BOOST
FOR BEGIN. THUS, MAARIV SAYS, "IT IS ONLY NATURAL
THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD TRY TO ENLIST A MAXIMUM OF
INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS;
AND LOOKED AT FROM THIS ASPECT, PRESIDENT
CARTER'S STATEMENTS CONSTITUTE A
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VICTORY FOR MENACHEM BEGIN: THE US PRESIDENT HAS
COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL IN HER OPPOSITION TO
THE ESTABLISHING OF A PALESTINIAN STATE, AND HAS
ANNOUNCED THAT HE DIFFERS WITH SADAT ON THIS
QUESTION." GUINEY COMMENTS IN YEDIOT
AHARONOT THAT THE PRESIDENT "HAS TO SOME EXTENT
PROVIDED BACKING FOR PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IN THE

IMPENDING DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS DUE TO BEGIN IN
JERUSALEM IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS' TIME."

3. THERE IS ALSO SATISFACTION THAT THE US AGREES WITH
ISRAEL ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MATTER IN QUESTION
AND THAT THIS AGREEMENT ILLUSTRATES CONTINUING US SUP-
PORT OF ISRAEL. MAARIV EDITORIALIZED: "IN THE DIS-
PUTE OVER THE TERRITORIES, HE STOOD BY ISRAEL, AND
HIS WORDS DID NOT LEAVE MUCH ROOM FOR DOUBT IN THE
HEART OF PRESIDENT SADAT THAT THE US REGARDS A
PALESTINIAN STATE AS AN INNOVATION CONTRARY TO
AMERICAN INTERESTS." GUINEY WROTE THAT, "THE EGYPTIAN
FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPERTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RELY
ON US PRESSURE TO PERSUADE ISRAEL TO ADOPT A SOLUTION
ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM HER PRESENT PROPOSALS."
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